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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 20 VOLUME 17

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ JACE ANAKIN RUSSELL

Toddler uses The Force

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Like his namesake, three-year-old Jace Anakin Russell is special.

Although he isn't one with The Force like Anakin Skywalker is, young Jace does have an incredible amount of strength and a strong zest for life.

He also enjoys watching Star Wars, a passion he shares with his father, Aaron Russell.

After living through a terrible experience no parent or child should have to endure,

father and son are using their passion to help others.

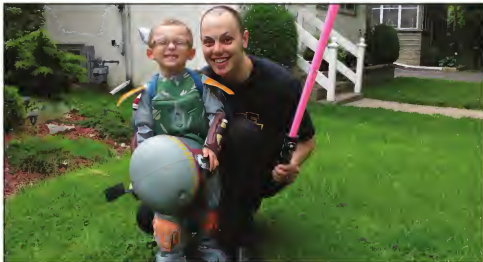
When Jace was 14 months old, his parents noticed he wasn't progressing normally so he was taken to the doctor for an examination.

"We noticed he had a bad cold and he was losing balance. When the doctor came in he told us he wouldn't last the night," Aaron said.

Doctors at the time were surprised the toddler was breathing and eating.

The diagnosis for Jace: a brain tumour.

see JACE | page 2



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Jace Russell, left, is sharing his story about recovering from a brain tumour while raising money for Ronald McDonald House Hamilton with his dad, Aaron Russell. Together, they combine their passion for Star Wars while helping others like them.

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upfront

■ JACE

'He is someone special. That's for sure.'

FROM PAGE 1

With a death sentence hanging over their heads, the Russells' world had changed.

But as Han Solo said: "Never tell me the odds."

Jace was rushed into surgery so doctors could remove the tumour. Eventually he was able to go home.

Fast forward two years later and Jace is a vibrant child with a big smile always on his face.

Just looking at him, no one would ever know just how sick he was, says

Aaron.

"He is someone special. That's for sure."

The journey to health hasn't been easy, says Aaron, who tries to make any hospital visits as painless as possible for Jace.

Last year, Jace was sent to hospital because he suffered seizures. Because of his medical history, doctors take every symptom Jace has seriously. The doctors didn't have time to put Jace to sleep for an emergency MRI scan to see if the boy's brain tumour had returned.

To keep his son still,

Aaron convinced Jace the MRI machine was a spaceship. As the machine

groaned and hummed, it was really the hum on the spaceship. As the floor beneath them began to shake, the lights started to blink quickly, the pair were headed into hyperspace. Aaron had managed to convince Jace he was Boba Fett, his favourite *Star Wars* character, on a mission in the galaxy.

Although Aaron and his wife remain watchful of Jace's health, the family would like to help other people who find them-

selves going through what the Russells did.

Aaron created coins in honour of his son. The front of the coin says Jace Wars, in honour of the pair's favourite films, and the back has an image of Jace. The father sold the coins to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Hamilton, where the family stayed while Jace was in hospital.

"It's the best place you never want to have to stay," Aaron said of Ronald McDonald House.

"They have a living room setting provided in a room

in a hospital," says Aaron.

There, parents with sick children are able to have a meal, use the Internet to stay in contact with family and have a comfortable place to stay while going through a terrible experience.

Taking their fundraising efforts further, Aaron is in the process of creating a website called Jace Wars to share his son's story and offer a chance for families experiencing similar situations can find support.

A launch party for www.jacewars.com will be held Saturday, July 13, at Candy

Safari Parties in Port Colborne to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Hamilton. The event will feature comic book artists, face painters, costumed guests, raffish and food.

For more information or to support the Russells in their endeavour to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House, e-mail Aaron at roxswell@hotmail.com.

With the support of the community, both father and son hope to "change the galaxy."

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

FUNDRAISER

Turning the tables on cancer

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Lisa Benard, Shana Ruch and Cher Olm were among hundreds of women who helped to raise funds Sunday to turn the tables on cancer.

The fourth Table Toppers Women's Luncheon held at Port Colborne Italian Canadian Recreation Club raised funds for the Ramona Pizzo and Bonnie Jackson Scholarship Award.

Teresa Pizzo, who helps organize the event, said the luncheon usually raises money for cancer, however, this year the money will go toward assisting Grade 12 students who have incurred financial hardships because a parent has been affected by cancer.

The award also applies to a student who is a cancer survivor.

The recipients are

selected by each school's principal or a graduation committee and can be used to pursue post-secondary education, an apprenticeship or to get started in the workforce.

"The award will be presented to selected students from Port Colborne High School and Lakeshore Catholic High School," Pizzo said.

Themed tables that included Chillin' and Grillin', Let's Make a Deal and Beach Party were set up and were treated to corresponding prizes.

SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Pictured from left Lisa Benard, Shana Ruch, and Cher Olm dressed in themed costumes for the Table Toppers Women's Luncheon hosted at the Italian Club in Port Colborne, Sunday.



portraits

■ **SAFETY AWARENESS DAY AND BIKE RODEO:** Dozens of children turn out to Port Colborne fire hall

Youngsters brush up on life-saving skills

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It was last year when Logan Dickie first learned how to ride his bike without training wheels.

With the sun shining down on him Saturday, the six-year-old was able to ride his bike through an obstacle course.

Saturday's annual Safety Awareness Day and Bike Rodeo at the Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services fire hall on Mellanby Ave. was the perfect opportunity for the youngster to remember all of the rules for riding his bike.

"He has a fun time. He always looks forward to this (event)," said mom, Tricia Dickie.

Five-year-old Cohen Labrie also enjoyed the events.

"We came here last year, and he (Cohen) just enjoys any kind of emergency services," Mom, Randi Labrie, said.

The annual event, now in



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Siblings Tytan Worrall, 5, and Ireland Worrall, 7, ride their bikes during Safety Day.

its 19th year, is put on by the Port Colborne Community Safety Committee.

This year, about 30 children participated in the bike rodeo and more than 100 children were in awe over the Niagara OPP's full-service vehicle rollover simulator. When turned on, the simulator showed how a person can be ejected from a vehicle during a crash by placing a dummy inside.

Children also enjoyed

an obstacle course which taught them about fire safety, as well as interactive displays, free hotdogs and face painting.

"Parents seem to be happy with everything and the kids are having a good time," said safety committee chair Rachel Richardson.

She said she thinks families must enjoy the interactive displays, using the fire hose and completing the



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Five-year-old Cohen Labrie learns what it's like to ride an OPP motorcycle.

bike rodeo.

The event targets children aged four to 12, but there are plenty of "wee ones," Richardson said.

Parents also have an opportunity to learn about organizations and groups

such as Block Parent, Sea Cadets, Air Cadets and other community partners.

This year's event "is one of the best one's yet," Richardson said.

"The amount of kids we've had come through

here has probably doubled in size from last year. The weather is a bit chilly, but the sun is out and people are having a great time.

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ourview

Hudak should stop playing usual politics

After snatching defeat from the jaws of victory in the 2011 provincial election, Tim Hudak has been busy doing many of the right things for the Progressive Conservative party that he leads.

He has been releasing white papers on a variety of issues affecting the lives of the people of Ontario.

He has been reaching out to rural Ontario with what seems to be an understanding of the issues involving wind turbines being shoved down rural Ontarians' throats.

And he has been straightforward about the need to cut expenses in a province that is facing a black hole of debt.

One recent poll suggests all this hard work, all this steering the ship in the right direction hasn't been enough when residents of the province consider party leaders.

Another poll shows Hudak's popularity is running behind that of Premier Kathleen Wynne and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

Hudak can take some comfort from the fact that both the polls and the pundits are wrong more and more often. But the numbers indicate Hudak must do more if he hopes to unseat the Liberals in the next election.

If Hudak is open to suggestions, I have one for him: Why not stop playing politics as usual in favour of the politics of reason?

Here's an example: Instead of criticizing the premier for dumping Paul Godfrey from the leadership of Ontario Lottery and Gaming, why not admit it was a good move that should allow the government to get OLG's head out of the clouds of U.S. riches and back on the ground for Ontario residents?

There will be dozens of other opportunities to trash the premier, if past experience can be believed.

You'd be hard-pressed to find many outside the stuffy corridors of power in Toronto who saw Godfrey as a good fit for OLG.

But under his watch, the OLG modernization plan took hold.

That's the plan that saw the government break long-standing agreements with the racetracks of Ontario to share revenues from slots.

Instead, the plan calls for a partnership with big American gaming enterprises so that the racetrack share of slots, plus billions more, will end up south of the border rather than in the hands of the rural Ontario horse industry and its thousands of employees, many of whom now find themselves out of work.

Cutting expenses and dumping ridiculous and wasteful initiatives are the only ways the residents of this province will ever find their way to a rosy future.

If Tim Hudak can rise above the politics of yesterday, accept the good and attack only the bad he will get to be premier.

jemrtiam@bmts.com

■ COLUMN

Are you saved without a doubt?

PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK
Wairfield Congregation
Christian Church

Just ask Jesus into your heart, repeat this prayer often and you will be saved. Right? Not Necessarily.

Multitudes have been assured that if they merely raise their hands, walk an aisle, or mouth certain words, then

voilà the are automatically Christians. And they are no more born again than a cockroach is born again.

It is possible that many people who profess Christ do not possess Him? Is it possible that many who take the name Christian unto themselves do not really belong to the Lord? Is it possible that many who have had great

experiences in the name of Christ are living a delusion? And is it even possible that many ministers and teachers who have done great works

maybe even miracles will one day hear those thundering words from the Lord "I NEVER KNEW YOU!" It is not only possible but very probable. Matthew 7:21-23 says "Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter into the kingdom of

heaven. (vs 22)-Many is the KEY word will say to me on that day. 'Lord, Lord did we not profess in your name? And in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then

I will say to them plainly I NEVER KNEW YOU!"

Can we still have doubts? Yes, our faith is never perfect.

Doubt is not the same thing as unbelief. Doubt is resting our faith through, it is struggling at times, it is faith that seeks understanding.

In the end doubt can strengthen our faith and deepen our convictions. Unbelief on the other hand is a settled conviction that will not believe in spite of any evidence. The heart and mind are closed to the truth of God.

How then can we have assurance? Assurance is God-given-the Holy Spirit confirming to the believers heart that He or She belongs to Him. This issues in a life of discipline, obedience and discipleship. We know that if we have come to know Him if we obey his commands. (1 Jn. 2vs. 3). We do not love the world or anything in the world (1 Jn. 2:15). We love one another. (1 Jn. 3:11). We do not practice or

keep on sinning as a habitual lifestyle. (1 Jn. 3:6). These are some of the assurances manward. There are also greater assurances Godward.

Jesus always prays according to God's perfect will for his followers 24/7. (Rom. 8:34).

"Neither Height nor Depth nor anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39). These are just a few samplings of healthy biblical assurance. Someone has said there are 4 categories regarding this assurance.

1. Some people are not saved and they know they are not saved.

2. Some are saved but they are not sure of their state.

3. Some are saved and they have the full assurance of their state of completion.

4. Some are not saved, but they think they are saved. They have assurance but it is FALSE ASSURANCE. And that is the most dangerous state of all. To think that you belong to Jesus and you are not one of His wills be the most eternal and rude awakening of all.

You can be sure, you can be certain and you can be ready to meet the Lord. An old bible

speaks of 3 apprentice devils who were talking to Satan one day. The first one said "I will tell people there is no God". Satan replied "They will not fool many because they know there is a God". The second devil said "I will tell them there is no Hell". Satan said "Many believe there is". The third said "I will tell people there is no hurry and Satan clapped his hands together in glee and said "Good, good and you will ruin millions". And that is the scariest statement of all. This is the utter folly of procrastination. Do you know when the Lord will return? Can you guarantee you will live to see tomorrow?

Only by sincerely confessing that you are a sinner before a HOLY and ALMIGHTY GOD and only by RECEIVING CHRIST as both LORD and SAVIOR, who longs to forgive you of all your sins can you be certain of your state in the here and the hereafter. And you will hear His "WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."

You can be saved without a doubt and you can sing "BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE, OH WHAT A FORTUNE OF GLORY DIVINE."

I've been thinking about god and evil

REV. DR. STEVEN DAVIS
Central United Church, Port
Colborne

"On May 8 our lives changed forever. What happened to him was not God's doing. I know that if it wasn't Tim it could have been another man and another man's family. What if they didn't have the support that we have. I couldn't be here without all of you. Evil came to pass. We have seen there is far more good on this earth, I believe, especially in this case, god will overcome the evil." Those words were spoken by Sharlene Bosma, the widow of Tim Bosma, who was apparently kidnapped and murdered on May 6, at his memorial service. As he read the words on video, and then read them again later in print,

they literally sent shivers up and down my spine.

Tim Bosma, according to everyone I've heard who knew him, was a genuinely good man. A loving husband, a devoted father of a 2 year old girl, a man of faith active in his church and community. The police have confirmed that he was exactly that; exactly what he appeared to be. And then his life was brutally ended for no rational reason anyone can understand. It was an act of evil.

And evil can so easily overwhelm us. But I found myself struck by Sharlene Bosma's words - words that showed such faith in both God and goodness even in the midst of evil. Her words got me thinking about the

concepts of good and evil, and the reality of sin.

Many people use the very existence of evil as a reason to not believe in God. A good God wouldn't allow evil, is the argument. I've always believed that the only way for God not to allow evil to happen would be to coerce us to be good - but coerced goodness wouldn't really be good, would it? And if there were no evil, then how could goodness exist? And a life lived under coercion wouldn't really be life, would it? I celebrate the freedom God gives us to choose, even while I realize that some will make the wrong choice, and some will even choose evil. But I do agree with Sharlene Bosma that, ultimately, good does overcome evil.

It's my opinion that too many Christians give evil far too much power. I reflect, for example, on the doctrine of "original sin." I understand it, of course. It states that human beings are born with a sinful nature. It's not that we're born as sinners - because it's an action that has to be chosen, and a person has to have the capacity to make the choice (to understand right from wrong and good from bad and to choose between them). In order to sin. The doctrine basically says that once we reach the point at which we can make that choice, we will inevitably choose to do wrong at least some of the time, because we can't help ourselves.

see DAVIS | page 5

There is good in each of us

FROM PAGE 4

It's our nature. I readily confess that in my own life I'm well aware of my own shortcomings, failings and sins. That awareness also makes me grateful for the grace, mercy, compassion and love of God.

But "original sin" puts too much emphasis on sin, and can too easily be turned into an excuse to surrender before evil. And so I choose to balance it with what I call "original goodness."

Genesis 1:31 tells us that as God finished the work of creation, "God saw all that he had made" - including us - "and it was very good." As people we are made in God's image, and we are declared "good" by God.

That tells me that while we may have a sinful nature, and while we may choose to do wrong

and even to do evil, there is a reservoir of goodness within us that will ultimately triumph. I think deep down we all know that.

Although we're sometimes inundated with signs of evil - scandals and violence and wars and hatred - we all know as we walk around our own neighbourhoods that there's far more goodness in the world. It's that hope (a hope that I believe comes from living with the image of God shining from us) that helps us through the horrible things that sometimes happen in our own lives.

It's that hope in goodness that Sharlene Bosma was talking about. May God bless her and her family. May they find the strength to somehow move forward with their lives, and may they find joy.

First, let me go on record by saying that I am vehemently opposed to any festival that features poop.

Although this weekend's Lions Club Carnival in Fenwick sounds like a lot of fun - a parade with a high school marching band, floats, midway rides, a chili cook-off - I will not be there. I will remain one county and a township away from Fenwick because the main feature of this festival is billed as the "Cow Plop Lottery - Got Bessie Go!"

You get the picture, and no, it's not a pretty one. Instead of a starter's pistol or a checkered flag, the crowd will wait patiently for the silent call of nature to start the event.

Bessie, an overweight bovine wearing sunglasses, will roam a fenced-in pen sectioned off with lottery squares. Responding to the call, Bessie's tail will wiggle, a splat will be heard and some guy will shout "We got a winner!"

Not exactly Varina White turning over roses or Yolande Vega reading the numbers from the New York State Lottery on ping pong balls. Don't get me wrong, the Cow Plop Lottery sounds



WILLIAM THOMAS

HUMOUR

like a lot of fun, even though I didn't receive a floral of cash because Bessie did a gnomus number 2, might confuse the children. (It's quite a stretch from the money on the pillow left by the Tooth Fairy this time.)

Problem: the last time I attended a scatological social event, I got some on me. Not 'on me' like they had to hose down but ... well, it's personal. And the memory, which still haunts me, is crystal clear.

It was 18 years ago and a warm spring evening at Welland Curling Club, a hamlet 19 kilometres from the village of Fenwick. Hey! Is That Guy Dead Or Is He 'The Skip? had just been published with some controversy. It was not what you would call "the definitive book on the sport of curling." Some even disagreed with my description of our national pastime. "Essentially the game

of curling involves you throwing a rock into a house, then your opponent throws a rock at your rock, rocks hit rocks, some rocks are taken out and at the end of an end, everybody gets their rocks off and they start all over again. It's a very social sport."

Apparently defenders of the great Canadian game took great exception to my claim that curling is the only game in the world you could play while being hooked up to a life-support system. My purpose in writing the book was simple. "Let's take the degrading and dehumanizing violence out of hockey and put it in curling, a sport that could really use a little action."

Although the people with brooms were not happy, my publisher was thrilled. "Five thousand curlers bought this book," screamed the headline on the promotional sheet. And of course later, 5,000 curlers burned it. However, this was before the curling community turned on me, so when Welland Curling Club invited me to attend the first-ever William Thomas Borspied, I was naturally flattered and RSVP'd

"Yes!"

When the lights came up on the rink and a gentleman by the name of Gord Dandy was leading two waddling ducks to a large pen on the ice, I noticed the exact title of the event was the William Thomas Crapshoot Borspied. Instead of 32 participating curlers, the club had arranged 32 of my columns face-up in the pen where the ducks were now wandering around. Gord assured me that the ducks had eaten a lot lately. He also said he really liked my columns - "highly absorbent" were the words he used.

I also noticed that the ducks were cooked. Cakes with strings attached had been utilized in such a way as to maximize the blast once they were removed in the pen and the ducks hovering over my columns.

I turned to the mayor of Welland who had experience in the dairy business. "Could you actually do that? I asked incredulously. "Cork a duck?"

"Hell yes," he said. "Me and the wife used to cork the kids all the time on long car trips."

see THOMAS | page 8

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■ CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH: Port Colborne volunteers sorting through donations

Free clothing

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — There's great finds for everyone at the Spring and Summer Clothing Boutique.

"There are all kinds of clothes, everything from baby's clothing, to children's, men's and women's — as well as children's toys, movies and books," says boutique organizer Lori Smith.

There are also plenty of shoes, belts, dresses and even bed sheets to be snatched up, she adds.

A group of volunteers have been sorting through donated clothing which will be available at the event, June 15, running 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What Smith wants people to know is the clothing boutique isn't a sale, it's a chance for people to pick up some clothes free of charge. Donations, however, will be accepted.

"It's our own way of giving back to the community," says boutique volunteer Lynn Davis.

Central United typically holds a boutique sale during

Christmas time.

"We get people who come in and they are excited in finding rare finds. It makes all the hard work worthwhile," Davis says.

With about nine to 10 racks and several tables worth of clothing to organize, volunteers have put in more than 40 hours of their time to prepare for the boutique.

Central United Church is at 30 Delhi St. For more information about the clothing boutique call 905-834-4533.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Volunteers Lynn Davis and Lori Smith, right, are busy organizing clothing for the Spring and Summer Boutique at Central United Church in Port Colborne.

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■ **CALL TO ACTION:** Niagara Poverty Reduction Network says solutions are needed now to eradicate problem

Poverty is her way of life

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

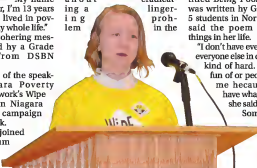
WELLAND — "My name is Chonie Anger, I'm 13 years old and I have lived in poverty basically my whole life."

That was a sobering message delivered by a Grade 7 student from DSNB Academy.

She was one of the speakers at Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's Wipe Out Poverty in Niagara Call to Action campaign launch last week.

Chonie was joined at the podium by Niagara Poverty Reduction

Network chair Elisabeth Zimmermann and vice-chair Willy Noltes as they spoke about eradicating poverty in the region.



Before she talked about her life, Chonie read a poem titled *Being Poor Is*, which was written by Grade 4 and 5 students in North Bay. She said the poem related to things in her life.

"I don't have everything that everyone else in class has. It's kind of hard. I get made fun of or people pick on me because I don't have what they have," she said.

Some days she won't

bring a lunch to school because her family doesn't have food in the house or can't afford it. Budget, all they can afford are the basic necessities.

"I don't always get the cool shoes or can't afford it. Chonie said she is bullied by other students because they don't understand what she goes through."

"I feel they are not really trying to understand. If they tried, they would learn what it's like to go through what I go through. If they stepped in

my shoes for a day they would cry — not because they feel bad, but because it's so hard."

Chonie feels badly for her little brother who gets bullied and picked on as well. She said her mother is looking for a job and wouldn't be there I today and wouldn't be here to tell you my story," Chonie said.

Carol Stewart-Kirkby, executive director of United Way of Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, thanked the young teen for sharing her story.

and who have parents who have little or no post-secondary education.

"I think if I didn't live in poverty, and hadn't gone through all the tribulations ... and worked through them, I wouldn't be where I am today and wouldn't be here to tell you my story," Chonie said.

see **POVERTY** | page 8

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Spring and summer should be about sunshine and getting outdoors, but for so many people, it means allergies.

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■ POVERTY

Poverty does exist in Niagara

FROM PAGE 7

She thought it touched everyone seated in the auditorium at Welland Community Wellness Complex.

"What a remarkable story, what a remarkable young woman. What composure and maturity it takes to come in front of a group like this and tell such a personal story," said Stewart-Kirkby.

She introduced Nollies and Zimmermann to the audience, which numbered about 100.

"That there's poverty in Niagara should be no surprise to anyone in this room," said Nollies. "One only needs to look at the unemployment rate, the 40%-plus increase in social assistance rates or the large number of people working in the service sector."

He said one thing no one ever really looked at was the

economic impact of poverty in Niagara.

In 2012, Brock Observatory researchers did just that.

"The consequences of poverty in Niagara hurts everyone, not just those living in it, to the tune of \$1.36 billion in lost productivity, disproportionate health-care expenditures and other direct and indirect costs."

Nollies said instead of being reactive to poverty, the consequences and root causes need to be addressed. Such things as income distribution, the labour market, affordable child care and housing, and more, need to be worked on.

"We need to begin to work on solutions."

He said that's where the broader community needs to come into play and work with Niagara Poverty Reduction Network, which has more than 30 members,

with groups including the Hope Centre and Bridges Community Health Centre involved.

The vision statement for the group, Nollies said, is all Niagara residents living above the poverty line, and that's supported by a mission that encourages private, voluntary and public sectors working together to improve the quality of life in Niagara.

There are also three goals, Nollies said: "Dispelling myths about living in poverty, improving collaboration and action in poverty reduction efforts by all stakeholders, and engaging and including all individuals in the community."

Zimmermann said Niagara Poverty Reduction Network recognizes that upstream investments in housing, child care and education are critical to eradicating poverty.

"Charity alone can't address the needs of our social safety nets. Yet more and more demands are being placed on local agencies to respond when government funding cuts occur," she said.

She said Niagara Poverty Reduction Network has

■ THOMAS



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Chonie Anger, 13, talks with Niagara Poverty Reduction Network chair Elisabeth Zimmermann and vice-chair Willy Nollies at Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's Wipe Out Poverty in Niagara Call to Action launch on Wednesday.

undertaken an ambitious to create awareness of poverty, spread what it knows and deal with the root causes and myths.

"We're promoting a serious

call to action to all residents of Niagara to be participants in this. Addressing the root causes is not only a moral argument, but also an economic one."

More information can be found at www.wipeout-poverty.ca.

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Ducks didn't think much of my work

FROM PAGE 6

I tried to leave at that point but the poopfest down on the ice was hitting its highlight reel. The person with the winning ticket on which one of my columns got splattered the most, got a cash reward. The

couple holding the ticket on the column on which a duck had delivered a direct hit to my photo at the top... they won the bonus of a weekend at the Chelsea Inn in Toronto.

And I got... I got to see how a sampling of my life's work served as two-ply toilet paper.

So no, I won't be attending "Fenwick's Fabulous Carnival" this weekend. "Fun with Dung" only works if you're not the one who gets the wrong end of the stick.

I still have bad dreams about the ducks, but the thought of my photo looking

up from under the udder of "Go! Bessie! Go!" is not the kind of public distinction I had hoped to achieve in my career. And yes, it only takes one good "splat" to remind me — everybody's a critic.

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congregation invites you to its spring bazaar and bingo. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Bingo begins 7 p.m. At 109 Chaffey St., Welland. Includes penny table, draws, bake sale. Food and refreshments available. All welcome. For more information call 905-732-7431.

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB at Wellfleet Township Public Library, 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea as we discuss works of classic literature. This month's selection is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a book club member at the library.

GNOCCHI DINNER from Casa Dante (back door) 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. or until food lasts. Dinners are \$10. Takeout only. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta (garlic also available) for takeout.

**FRIDAY
MAY 31
BOUTIQUE** at First Presbyterian Church, (corner of Elm & Charlotte Sts.) today and June 1, 8 a.m. to noon. Features gently used clothing, jewelry, hats, purses, book, CDs, etc.

PROGRESSIVE EUCRE Tournament at Wellfleet Township Public Library, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Moore Room of Wellfleet Arena. Co-sponsored with Wellfleet Seniors Group. Open to all adults. This is a fun, social event. No entry fee. Prizes awarded for best, worst and more. Refreshments will follow. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register by May 29 as space is limited.

**SATURDAY
JUNE 1**
FENWICK 160TH Anniversary Celebrations, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Opening ceremonies (designation of the Fenwick flagpole, formal flag raising, 21-gun cannonade) at 10 a.m. Flyover, sod

turning, cake cutting at 11 a.m. Entertainment and antique power display, live bands and buskers, vendors, children's activities including a model flagpole contest, heritage tours of 30 sites by carriage, Victorian tea at model railroad, museum and library activities.

BOOK AND BAGEL SALE at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m. to noon. A dollar each will buy you a hardcover book, puzzles, CD or DVD; 50 cents for paperbacks or video cassettes; bagel and coffee, \$2. Proceeds to go to Open Arms Mission.

coln St., Welland, at 7 p.m.
KNITTING CIRCLE at Wellfleet Township Public Library today and June 17, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This drop-in knitting club meets twice a month to knit together, share patterns, help each other and learn how to knit. (Crocheting is welcome, too.)

THE WRITE STUFF 3 Writers – 3 Dreams – 3 Short Stories – 3 Judges... One Prize. Jamie Gowen, Jenna Plunio and Hailey Lessard face off. At Stake: The honour of opening for New York Times bestselling Author Kelley Armstrong.

one session per week. Registration forms available in library or online. Completed registration forms must be returned to the library to reserve your child's spot. Sessions fill quickly. No phone registrations permitted.

**TUESDAY
JUNE 4
BIRDS OF PANAMA** Author and birder John Black and wife Jean travelled to Panama in search of the sapayoa, an unusual bird found only in Panama and northern Colombia. This PowerPoint presentation at Pelham Public Library will feature photos from the

ment and Atlantic City trip.

**FRIDAY
JUNE 7
P.A. DAY PROGRAM** Game Palooza! at Wellfleet Township Public Library, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to drop in for Nintendo Wii and board games.

**SATURDAY
JUNE 8
PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL** and Marine Museum will offer an Inroquois beadwork workshop with Samuel Thomas, master beadwork artist, at the L.R. Wilson Research Archives, 286 King

to 11:30 a.m.; \$3. Register ahead at Pelham Public Library.

NSNAP YARD AND PLANT SALE Niagara Spay Neuter Assistance Program Inc. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grace Anglican Church, 238 Geneva St., St. Catharines. NSNAP is a non-profit with all proceeds going to spay/neuter in Niagara. To schedule a donation drop off, pick up or volunteer call 289-897-8514 or see www.niagaraspayneuterassistance.org.

**MONDAY
JUNE 10**
MAKE A FRILLY SCARF Instructor Joyce Groeneveld will get you started at Pelham Public Library, 6 p.m. Cost: \$20, includes yarn. Bring single point needles sizes five millimetre. Register ahead.

**TUESDAY
JUNE 11
NIAGARA WOMEN'S** Connection, an inter-denominational Christian women's club invites you to a relaxing afternoon of fun, friendship, information and inspiration from 1 to 3. This month we're featuring a beach theme (so wear your capris and flip-flops). We're featuring new product demos from Fifth Avenue Jewelry and from Epicure. Games, surprises, prizes and treats, and Patricia Pearce from Toronto – a must-hear "Testimony from the Heart" for women of all ages. Cost \$7. Babysitting fee of charge. This month's event is at Kirk on the Hill, 1344 Haist St., Pelham. RSVP to Margaret, 905-788-9641, or e-mail mrs.g@livv.ca.

CARD MAKING Create six cards which can be tailored for various occasions. Learn how to paper quilt, do a simple origami embellishment and experiment with colours and textures on die-cut doors or windows. Have fun turning paper into a unique fortune cookie card. Time 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., \$10. Register at Pelham Public Library.

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**SUNDAY
JUNE 2
SPIRIT OF SPRING** Concert presented by The Velvetones at Welland Community Wellness Complex, 2 p.m. Tickets \$4 for pass-holders or \$6 prior to May 27; \$6 and \$8 after.

**MONDAY
JUNE 3
NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS** Association meets at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lin-

Time: 7:30 p.m. at Pelham Public Library. Adults: \$3. Students: \$1. Register ahead. Copies of the chapter book with all three short stories will be on sale. Part of Greyborders' Niagara Literary Arts Festival.

TD SUMMER READING CLUB Registration starts at Wellfleet Township Public Library. Our award-winning TDSCR runs July 2 to Aug. 9. It is divided into three age groups. Each child comes to

area, as well as the birds; 7 p.m., \$4. Register ahead.

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 5
WELLAND EASTLAKE ALUMNI** meets in the school library at 7 p.m. Elections will be held at this meeting so all alumni are urged to attend. All former students and teachers are invited to attend. Visit www.eastlakealumni.com for information on upcoming golf tourna-

ment and Atlantic City trip.

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

POCOMAR member Cal Peyton, right, pulls in a Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit lifejacket during a large-scale search and rescue exercise on Lake Erie on Sunday. The lifejacket was left far offshore and represented a person in the water.

POCOMAR takes part in exercise

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Fresh off a search and rescue training exercise on Lake Erie on Sunday, POCOMAR crews headed out on the water Monday and were to be back at it again today.

The weekdays mission involves

crews installing buoys for Niagara Region's health department out on Lake Erie.

On Sunday, POCOMAR vessels 1 and 2 took part in search and rescue training with Canadian Coast Guard search and rescue lifeboat *Thunder Cape*, out of Port Dover, and fellow Canadian Coast Guard auxiliary ves-

sels *Sandman* and one from Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit.

"The exercise will concentrate on honing the skills required to respond to emergencies at sea and practising hoisting people from marine vessels via helicopter," a release from the Coast Guard said.

see EXERCISE | page 11



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■ EXERCISE

POCOMAR kept busy over the weekend

FROM PAGE 10

The Coast Guard auxiliary vessels were given tasks by

the *Thunder Cape* to search for 'boats' in trouble on the water.

POCOMAR 1 was sent

west toward the Wainfleet-Haldimand area to search for a 'boat' with four people on board. The crew set out a

search pattern with boundaries to the east and west, while moving north and south searching the water.

That task was changed by *Thunder Cape* and the vessel was tasked to another location where it dropped a man-overboard marker and started another search pattern. This time for a 'person' in the water. The 'person' was a red Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit life-jacket, which was found.

After that task, POCOMAR 1 was directed to another set of co-ordinates and a CC130 Hercules from Royal Canadian Air Force 424 Squadron of

Trenton was soon overhead. POCOMAR 1, *Thunder Cape* and *Sandman* were also in the area. A smoke flare was dropped from the Hercules as were survival kits.

Once the Hercules completed its mission, a CH146 Griffon Helicopter, also from Trenton, came on scene and worked with *Thunder Cape*.

The helicopter and crew of *Thunder Cape* co-ordinated a hoisting drill which saw two search and rescue technicians and a rescue basket lowered to the deck of the Coast Guard ship. The two men and basket were then

hoisted back up.

Two SAR-Techs also parachuted from the CC130 Hercules and were brought onboard the helicopter by another SAR-Tech who was lowered to them in the water.

A similar exercise was held Saturday on Lake Ontario.

"This past weekend's participation by all area units shows the dedication and high level of training and expertise of those working and volunteering in the search and rescue system," said Mark Gagnon, training and exercise co-ordinator for the Coast Guard in Ontario.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
A CH146 Griffon helicopter, from Royal Canadian Air Force 424 Squadron of Trenton, lowers a search and rescue technician on to the deck of Canadian Coast Guard search and rescue lifeboat *Thunder Cape*, out of Port Dover, on Sunday on Lake Erie during a training exercise.

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■ **SOCCER:** Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt, Ontario hoops champ adds soccer scholarship to resume

Best foot forward

BERND FRANKE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Tori Badawey is a top kick, on and off the soccer pitch.

She's a black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu who feels just as home building up her cardio kick boxing at Dayboil Jiu-jitsu & Fitness Academy as she is netting goals from the striker position at the elite level for the Welland

Wizards.

Perhaps, the 18-year-old Id Port Colborne native is even more at home in the dojo given her history in the two sports. She remembers going to for martial arts as three-year-old but didn't begin playing soccer until she was six.

That's when Badawey began returning kicks to her father Chad, and when soccer struck a chord in the future striker that reverberates to

this day.

"It would have to be soccer. That's my first love beyond everything," the Grade 12 Jean Vanier student quickly answers when asked which sport would she least one to part with.

"I feel so comfortable playing. It comes easy for me." Thankfully, the daughter of Chad and Kerry Badawey of Port Colborne never had to make that choice, and she believes martial arts helped make her a much better soccer player.

"I've learned so much from what martial arts has given me. It's made me more aggressive. I'm not scared to go after the ball as much," said Badawey, who was only 14 when she became one of the young-o-est Canadian females to win a national grappling title.

Being able without contact — and dish it out — in a battle for possession of the ball hasn't resulted in an increase in yellow and red cards, though. Martial arts, she pointed out, is also about discipline.

"It's about having the control not to retaliate," added Badawey, who was only 14 when she became one of the youngest Canadians females to win a national grappling title.

Badawey, who also



BERND FRANKE Staff Photo

Soccer scholarship recipient Tori Badawey is flanked by Carlo Caldaroni, left, and Mike Fragonemi, her coaches when she played soccer at the elite level in Welland.

played basketball and won back-to-back Ontario high school championships at Vanier, will be able to take those improved soccer skills and that all-around confidence to the next level when she begins attending West Virginia Wesleyan College on a scholarship.

When the athletic scholarship is combined with an academic component for Badawey, a student averaging 88% in her final year of high school, the cost of her university education will be covered.

"Basically, it will amount to a full ride for four years," said Badawey, who plans to take pre-law and hopes to become

a lawyer.

She considered going to Concordia College in New York, Indiana and Lindenwood University in Missouri but "felt right at home" when she met the women's soccer team during her campus visit to Wesleyan, a school of about 1,400 students located in Buckhannon, W. Va.

"Automatically I just connected with the girls. I already felt I was already part of the team when I visited."

Carlo Caldaroni and Mike Fragonemi, who coached Badawey for three years in Welland's elite program and now coach in Niagara Falls, are confident she will have no trouble adjusting to the high-intensity pace of Division II soccer.

"She's smart, and she's a go-getter. When she sets her mind to something, she gets it done," said Caldaroni, who aided in Badawey's development by moving her to defence.

"Now she sees how the game is played from the back up."

The move also helped the team.

"We needed to strength and stability at the back end. It was a night-and-day difference when she played back," Fragonemi said.

"Her biggest strength is resilience on the ball."

Caldaroni called Badawey a player who leads by example.

"She's one of those players who dictate what happens on the field. Players feed off of that," he said.

Badawey said she learned a lot from her coaches with the Wizards as well as from Nancy Desjardins, the girls soccer coach at Vanier and her guidance counselor at the school.

She also received plenty of support on the home front from her parents who have been in her corner "since Day one."

"I couldn't have done it without them, from rooting for me on the sidelines and driving me to games and practices and always pushing me to do my best."

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Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox (varicella-zoster virus). After the chickenpox blisters heal, the virus remains dormant in nerve cells in your body. It can become reactivated after many years following shingles. It is not known exactly why the virus becomes reactivated, however it is thought that having a weakened immune system along with physical trauma, UV light or stress may play a role. The risk of developing shingles increases with age and people over 50 years old are at the greatest risk. The symptoms include a painful, blistering rash that often breaks out in one part of the body, usually the chest or upper back are involved. Sometimes the pain resulting from shingles can last for weeks, months, or rarely years, after the rash heals. This lasting pain has been described as burning, aching, throbbing or stabbing and can result from something as little as a breeze or the touch of clothing on the skin. Older people are again at greater risk. Shingles may also result in skin infections at the site of the rash or scarring following healing of the rash.

Fortunately, a vaccine is now available to boost your immune system and help to prevent shingles and its complications. It is called Zostavax and is available to adults over 50 years old. The vaccine cannot be used if you are already experiencing symptoms of shingles; it is only used for prevention. The vaccine is given as a single dose by injection just under the skin of the upper arm by a doctor or trained nurse. As all medicines and vaccines can have side effects, some people may experience redness, pain, swelling, or bruising at the site of injection or headache. These are the most common unwanted effects, but they are usually minor. This vaccine was found to reduce the risk of developing shingles by about 50-70% (depending on your age) within the first year after receiving the vaccine.

Zostavax must be stored frozen below -15 degrees Celsius until the day it is to be used. Only a few pharmacies currently have the correct storage facilities for this vaccine to be able to stock it. Zostavax is available from all of the Boggio Family of Pharmacy locations.

Zostavax is safe for most people, however it should not be used by anyone who:

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- takes high doses of steroids (e.g., prednisone, methylprednisolone) by injection or by mouth

Since this is a relatively new vaccine, it is not known if it will provide protection from shingles for longer than 4 years.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist for more information and advice about shingles and to find out if the Zostavax vaccine is right for you.

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■ WAINFLEET

ATVs, farmers obstacle course added to fair

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — David Wyatt is hoping all-terrain vehicles and a farmers obstacle course will draw more people to the Wainfleet Fall Fair.

"We incorporated the ATV Expo this year and we have the mud bog on Saturday," said Wyatt, Wainfleet Agricultural Society president.

The fair runs Thursday, Sept. 19, to Saturday, Sept. 21, on and across the grounds of Wainfleet Arena. Wyatt said the fair booklet, which all of the events and competitions taking place, will be released soon and found at both Wainfleet and Port Colborne libraries, Minor Brothers, Wainfleet and Port Colborne city halls, Ben Bergs and other locations.

"We have a new event this year, the Iron Farmer Contest. It's for men and

women 18 years old and over, and is a timed obstacle course with six events they have to do."

Wyatt said the six events are: fix the fence, rope the loose calf, tractor tire, stack the hay, feed the animals and bring home the bacon. There are two sessions for the contest, both on the Saturday. People can sign up at wainfleet.fair@gmail.com.

Wyatt said all the favourites, including the demolition derby, tractor pull and baby contest, will be back. The fair goes rain or shine and kicks off with a parade around the fairgrounds, township hall and arena on the Thursday.

"It should be really exciting this year," Wyatt said.

More information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/wainfleetfair/> and at www.facebook.com/pages/Wainfleet-Fair/4438208856949.

■ PROSPERITY FOR PORT COLBORNE

Anti-poverty programs are awarded \$1.3M

SARAH FERGUSON
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — Niagara Region is combating poverty by investing \$1.3 million in 34 projects to be delivered by 20 agencies.

As part of that investment, \$260,000 will be split amongst seven agencies in Welland.

Three agencies in Port Colborne will split \$150,000, says Sarah Pennisi, the region's director of social assistance and employment opportunities.

Organizations that will receive funding include Port Cares, Heart Niagara, Community Living, John Howard Society of Niagara, Adolescent Family Support Services Niagara, The Learning Disability Association of Niagara and The Hope Centre.

The region's Niagara Prosperity Initiative (NPI), which is funding the projects in Port Colborne and Welland, will also invest in projects in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Thorold and Fort Erie.

The money will be used to fund a variety of programs including before- and after-school programs for children and youths, literacy programs, food and nutrition programs, community gardens, food banks and mental health counselling.

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs says the funding targets neighbourhoods in need and will offer programs such as Health Changes Everything, which teaches youths how to make low-cost but nutritious meals, how to shop and how to budget. Other programs include one- and six-week day camps, as well as Fun in the Sun, a free playground program that will run five weeks a week in the summer.

A panel of community representatives are selected, says Burroughs, to review applications from organizations. Recipients are selected based on need and how their programs will impact the community.

"It (the NPI) is not just about putting money into the community, it's about changing lives," Burroughs says.

■ ANNIVERSARY



Christ Church Anglican, in Wainfleet, will have three events to help celebrate its 150th anniversary this summer. The church is on Church St. near Mill Race Creek. **DAVE JOHNSON** Staff Photo

150 years for Christ Church Anglican

DAVE JOHNSON
inPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — It's gone undergone various updates and renovations over the years, but Christ Church Anglican still stands 150 years after its doors first opened.

The church, aptly located on Church St. in Wainfleet, was built near Mill Race Creek on land Stephen and Margaret Beatty donated to the Church Society Diocese of Toronto.

In fact, bricks used to build the church were formed and fired on the banks of the creek, said parishioner Roy Shoalts. Shoalts said the church was dedicated in 1863.

There will be three events held this summer to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

"On Sunday, June 2, the Anglican bishop of Niagara (Michael Bird) is coming to our church. We're combining with All Saints Church from Dain City for the service that day."

Shoalts said the Dain City and Wainfleet churches share the same minister, Ken Cartwright. Christ Church's services are at 9 a.m. on Sundays and All Saints are at 11 a.m.

But on the day of the bishop's visit, there will only be the service in Wainfleet and it will be held at 10 a.m. Shoalts said the public is invited to come to the service and help celebrate the anniversary.

The next celebration, he said, will be held Sunday, July 28, with area politicians coming to give their greetings and

congratulations during an open house. And the final celebration is Sunday, Sept. 28, Harvest Sunday, when former parishioners and rectors come out for a potluck dinner.

Shoalts said the church, which he has been attending for the past 20 years, has on average about 35 people in the pews on Sundays. Some of those people having been coming to the church for most of their lives.

"The strong point of this church is that we're a bunch of country farmer folk and we do all of our own work on the church."

That work includes renovations carried out in 1991 to make the church more accessible, a youth room built in 2003 and dedicated in memory of Rob Fulbrook, who was killed in an accident at John Deere, and renovations to the Rectory in 2008.

In 1904, the interior of the church was renovated and oak pews and wood work were installed. A bell tower was built in 1927, followed by a church hall in 1957.

Shoalts said the church has a strong ladies group and parishioners help those outside the community as well.

"In 2000, we had a group go down to Honduras."

That group helped build a multipurpose centre in the wake of a hurricane which caused major damage across the Central American nation.

Church members also raised \$4,000 to help rebuild a church in the Northwest Territories.

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■ **AUTHORS:** Many big names have come through Port Colborne

Thomas to leave authors series next year

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

Canadian Authors Reading Series at Roselawn Centre and will be the last for William Thomas as head of the series.

Thomas will announce his retirement on Thursday, May 30 at the last reading for the season, when

Haroun takes the stage.

"What I'll miss most are the vol-

WAINFLEET — September of this year will mark the 20th year for the

break, and then comes back to run February to May. All of the readings are held on the last Thursday of the month.

"It really is one of the best, if not the best venue, for authors reading in all of Canada. Publicists tell me all the time they're telling their authors they have to do Roselawn. We treat them like rock stars and they are the only ones on stage," said Thomas, adding he's been to other readings where there is more than one author on stage at a time.

Authors that come to Port Colborne are usually brought down in a hired car, taken out to dinner at Lucy's Cafe, and at times are given a reception at someone's home after the show.

Thomas said Mark Billingham, a crime writer from England, told him the audience at Roselawn was the best he had on his Canadian tour.

"We have great audiences here."

Only once, he added, did an audience member embarrass him and it was when Mordecai Richler appeared. Richler's novel *Barney's Version* was out and he was supposed to appear at a reading in Toronto on the same night, but Thomas made sure he came to Port Colborne.

Thomas said when it came time for questions from the audience, there was one person he kept ignoring. Knowing a bit about the person, who remains nameless, Thomas did not want to take a question from her, fearing what she might ask.

"Richler saw her and pointed her out. She told him that she purchased every book he wrote and gave them to her husband. 'He hated every one of them,' the woman said. The place went crazy with laughter. When the laughter died down, Richler said he was writing another book and would dedicate it to her husband."

While Thomas, with connections in the publishing industry, brings in current and popular authors, he's also brought in authors that he personally enjoys.

One of those was David Adams Richards, who was to read from his book *The Friends of Meagre Fortune*.

"He was great to deal with and a wonderful reader."

Thomas said one thing he asks authors not to do is actually read from their books.

"I want the gossip, the background stories behind a book. David read from his book, but he's such a wonderful reader it captured everyone and they all enjoyed it."

Being a huge Jian Ghomeshi fan, Thomas wanted to bring him down to Roselawn as well. Ghomeshi hosts the CBC Radio program Q.



Supplied photo

William Thomas, founder of Canadian Authors Reading Series at Roselawn Centre, will announce his retirement on May 30.

unteers, they have been fantastic," said Thomas, adding the event now pretty much runs itself. "I love Roselawn and the theatre as well."

The Wainfleet resident, and successful author himself, said the authors series was nearly cancelled at one point early on in its existence when Alex MacBeath, of Doane Raymond Accounting, moved to Toronto, leaving it without a main sponsor.

"I got on to the stage at the end of the last reading and thought Port Colborne really needs something like this. It really bothered me."

So Thomas took it upon himself to find new sponsors and ensure the doors opened the next season, making sure there was an interruption in the reading series.

"We've had a good run and I hope it continues on after I am done."

In the last 19 years, 12,000 books have been sold, 184 authors have appeared, and Thursday's season ending marks the 178th reading on the Roselawn stage. The series has also donated \$45,000 to local charities such as the United Way, Port Cares and Easter Seals, as well as book donations to Showboat Theatre, and local humane societies for their fundraisers.

Throughout the years, authors such as Pierre Berton, Lloyd Robertson, Adrian Humphreys, Farley Mowatt, Colin Mochrie, Joyce Kilgus and countless others have appeared in Port Colborne. Thomas himself did the first-ever reading on stage 19 years ago.

The series is considered by publicists to be the best in Canada, and many will book author tours starting out at Roselawn. It runs from September to November, takes a



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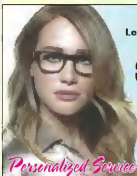
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■ **PORT HIGH:** Teacher pleased with performances

Top marks for school band

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A choir, a jazz band and a percussion ensemble have been given gold status.

Port Colborne High School competed with the best of the best during the 26th Port Colborne Festival of the

Arts, taking top recognition, says music teacher Derrick Stickney.

The event held each year invites students from high schools across the Niagara region to perform. Musicians and vocalists are scored based on their performance and given a bronze, silver, or gold evaluation.

Frequency, the school's vocal choir, sang their way to gold with excellence and a best performance award where the competition was held at Central United Church on Delhi St., on May 1. Frequency was one of three choirs that performed in the festival.

About eight bands

were invited to participate in the event held at Lakeshore Catholic High School on May 3.

The percussion ensemble, Pulse, won gold standing with a best performance award and the Blue Tones jazz band took gold.

Competition in the festival included students from fellow rivals

Lakeshore, as well as Westlane and Niagara Christian Community College from Niagara Falls.

Stickney said he was pleased with how his students performed in the festival and he couldn't ask for anything more.

"We were awarded gold in every category

we've entered and this is the first time we've competed in the festival."

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SKILLS COMPETITION

Welders spark the competition

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —
Three Port Colborne
High School students
have put their talents to

the test and have come
out on top at the Ontario
Technological Skills
Competition.

Grade 12 student Chase
Griffin took bronze for
the rose he created out of

sheet metal in under a half
an hour during the largest
skilled trades competition
in Canada held in Kitchener
on May 7.

see WELDING | page 21



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Brothers Ryan Grist (left) and Isaac Grist took bronze in the two-man demonstration category at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition held in Kitchener.



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■ WELDING

Griffin didn't feel nervous during competition

FROM PAGE 20

Griffin competed in the job demonstration category and was asked to create the rose using sheet metal. He was

given a 30 minute time limit to finish the project.

The student has been involved with Port Colborne's welding program for the last three years and looked forward

to the challenge of competing in the skills competitions.

"I wasn't as nervous as I probably should have been," Griffin said of competing in the skills competition.

"It (welding) is something I enjoy doing. I fell in love with it."

Brothers Ryan Grist and Isaac Grist teamed up for the two-man demonstration category, using a skill saw and a

cordless drill to construct a bench made from cedar wood.

With only six hours to complete the task from a blue print, Ryan Grist said the challenge taught him and his

brother a lot.

"It gave us a lot of experience and it taught us how to work under pressure."

For their efforts, the duo also received a bronze medal.



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